

April 6, 2005

their support. I hope the House can move quickly to approve this legislation so we can soon see it signed into law.

IN CELEBRATION OF GROUP A
BOYS' BASKETBALL STATE
CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to call attention to a group of young students from Surry County, Virginia, who have distinguished themselves, their school, their community, and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Surry High School Cougars boys' basketball team had a remarkable season and I believe the Cougars deserve formal recognition for their accomplishments. On March 12, 2005, the Cougars won their first Group A Boys' Basketball State Championship at the Virginia Commonwealth University Siegel Center in Richmond. Surry completed its 2005 season with a truly impressive record of 26-4.

The Cougars have dedicated this year's championship run to their Head Coach, Joe Ellis. Mr. Ellis was diagnosed with colon and stomach cancer twenty months ago. Despite his diagnosis and subsequent chemotherapy treatments, Mr. Ellis has continued to coach the Cougars, missing only one game during their championship season. His dedication and commitment to the team have given his players a model of how to face adversity both on the basketball court and in life.

Along with the State Championship, the Cougars won this year's Tri-Rivers District Tournament and the Region A Tournament. Coach Ellis was awarded Coach of the Year by the Virginia High School Coaches Association. Junior center Edward Barham was also honored as Player of the Year.

I want to extend my enthusiastic congratulations for a job well done to Coach Ellis and the Surry High School Cougars—the 2005 Group A Virginia High School League Boys' Basketball State Champions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on roll-call No. 90, had I been present, I would have voted "no".

HONORING DR. CONSTANTINE P.
KIAMOS AND STEINMETZ ACADEMIC CENTRE

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of one of Chi-

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

cago's great educators, Dr. Constantine P. Kiamos, former Principal of the Steinmetz Academic Centre.

Steinmetz Academic Centre stands in the heart of Chicago's Belmont-Cragin neighborhood, and has served the people of this community for over ninety years. Dr. Kiamos retired from Steinmetz last year after two decades of distinguished leadership, and was recently honored at a school event.

During his tenure, Steinmetz underwent many changes, including a major increase in enrollment. Through all of the changes, Steinmetz maintained its commitment to providing students with a high caliber education.

Dr. Kiamos has always believed in the importance of public education. Before he was the principal of Steinmetz Academic Centre, he served as Principal of Lovett School; Assistant Principal at Carpenter School and was a teacher at Medill Elementary.

Steinmetz's mission is to provide equal access to education for all students in an environment that is intellectually, physically and emotionally stimulating, and to develop productive citizens competent in academic and life skills, accepting of themselves and others, and capable of lifelong learning. Dr. Kiamos' leadership and teaching style was an important factor in carrying out this mission.

Over the years, Steinmetz has provided many opportunities for students to excel, through programs such as the Illinois State Scholars, Advanced Placement classes, the Academic Decathlon team, the Chicago Debate League and competitive sports teams. Many of Steinmetz's students who took advantage of these opportunities have excelled and achieved tremendous progress in a wide variety of fields.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois and indeed all of Chicago, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a lifetime of service and dedication to our community by a great Chicagoan, Dr. Constantine P. Kiamos, and Steinmetz Academic Centre that he so proudly served.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 21, 2005, I did not cast my Floor vote on roll call number 90 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 686, a private bill for the relief of the parents of Theresa Marie Schiavo. Had I been present, I would have voted nay.

My personal beliefs on religious morality belong to me, in my home and in my church, with my family and with my God. The Schiavos deserved this same level of privacy and respect. The good people of the 31st Congressional District did not elect me to impose my religious mores upon them or the American people through legislative acts in Congress.

Members of Congress should never have legislated on this very personal family matter—the Schiavos told us this and so even did the courts.

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The mere fact that we took up this legislation sets a dangerous precedent where if the Congress dislikes a court's decision we pursue a law to overturn our own constitutional system of checks and balances. In passing S. 686, this Congress complicated what has already been a long and difficult journey for the Schiavos these past 15 years. May Theresa Schiavo now rest in peace.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF ALDERMAN AUGUSTINE MUNOZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alderman Augustine Munoz for his public service to the city of Charlotte, Texas.

Augustine Munoz is no stranger to serving his country. A veteran of the Korean Conflict, he served as an artillery trainer. It was this same patriotism and dedication that later led him into the service of his local community.

Augustine Munoz has lived in Charlotte for over 72 years. His experience spans across many trades, including work in construction and the oil fields. He currently works on numerous committees and has spent time working with the Democratic Party.

As a longstanding community participant, he has dedicated much of his life to improving the City of Charlotte. While times may have changed, Augustine Munoz remains a steadfast community leader and organizer.

Augustine Munoz has been married for over fifty years. He is a devoted family man who loves to spend time with his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply proud to have this opportunity to recognize Alderman Augustine Munoz of Charlotte for his dedicated public service.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF JUDGE HECTOR J. LIENDO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contributions of Judge Hector J. Liendo in Laredo, TX in my Congressional District.

Born July 10, 1950, Judge Liendo attended Leyendecker Elementary School, L.J. Christen Jr. High and Martin High School. He later attended Laredo Junior College and received his Associates Degree in Computer Science.

Judge Hector J. Liendo enlisted in the military and chose the U.S. Navy right after high school. Through the navy he traveled to south East Asia, China, Philippines, Taiwan, Vietnam, Thailand, Borneo, Pakistan, Australia, Singapore, Okinawa, Japan, a brief tour to the ship's maiden name, "The Anchorage Alaska" and crossed the equator twice with a big celebration.

While in the navy, he made five tours to Vietnam during his four-year enlistment. He